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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION - OCTOBER 1, 1935

Information available at the beginning of October points to a material increase in the number of cattle to be fed for market during the late fall and winter feeding period this year over the small numbers fed a year earlier. It appears that the increase in feeding will be general both in the Corn Belt and in other areas where cattle are finished for market in considerable numbers. With supplies of hay and roughage large and prices low in nearly all States, and with feed grain production much larger than last year and hog numbers greatly reduced, there is a wide-spread tendency to turn to cattle feeding to utilize available feed.

In the Eastern Corn Belt States where cattle feeding in the winter and spring of 1934-35 was reduced little, if any, a considerable increase is indicated for this year. Shipment of stocker and feeder cattle, inspected at stockyard markets, into this area during the three months July to September this year was about the largest on record for this period. These large inshipments follow record large inshipments during the first six months of this year, making a total for the nine months, January to September, the largest in the 17 years for which records are available. The cattle bought in the first half of the year were largely for summer grazing to be fed out this coming winter, rather than cattle for immediate feeding.

In the western Corn Belt States where cattle feeding in the winter of 1934-35 was greatly reduced as a result of the drought, a considerable increase in feeding in the winter of 1935-36 over a year earlier is indicated. This increase will be largest in the States west of the Missouri River and in Missouri where the 1934 drought was most severe. Since corn production this year in the States west of the Missouri River will be much below average, cattle feeding in these States this year, while much larger than last, is expected to be considerably below average. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, inspected at public stockyards into the western Corn Belt States during the three months, July to September, were the smallest on record for these months. There has been, however, a very heavy movement of stocker and feeder cattle through large scale auction markets in some of these States as well as a heavy movement direct from cattle growing areas to feed lots in these States which did not go either through stockyards or auction markets.

Reports from the far western States indicate a considerable increase in cattle feeding this year over last in nearly all States. Feed supplies this year are generally abundant and low priced and cattle feeding is being increased to utilize the feed. A considerable increase in cattle feeding in Texas, at cottonseed oil mills, and elsewhere, is reported as probable.

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